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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/863,233	05/21/2001	Joseph Depaolantonio	CSCO-103808	9945

7590 05/17/2006
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EXAMINER

LEUNG, CHRISTINA Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/863,233	Applicant(s) DEPAOLANTONIO, JOSEPH	
	Examiner Christina Y. Leung	Art Unit 2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 3-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tindal (US 2002/0069275 A1) in view Nisbet et al. (US 6,834,304 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Tindal discloses a method for auditing an optical network (Figures 2 and 3), comprising the steps of:

transmitting a query (from administrator 110 and network manager unit 140) to a hardware device in the optical network (i.e., various devices such as a router 105 or another device 125; they are collectively labeled as network devices 135);

receiving a response to the query subsequent to the transmitting;

analyzing the response to the query; and

transmitting a second query to the hardware device, the second query based on the response to the first query, in order to gather status information of the hardware device.

Regarding claim 25, as similarly discussed above with regard to claim 1, Tindal discloses a computer useable medium having computer useable code embodied therein causing a computer (i.e., various processing/computing elements in network manager unit 140, which operates based on software such as code from storage device 145 or an operating system, etc.; Figures 2 and 3; paragraphs [0031]-[0033]) to perform operations comprising:

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transmitting a query (from administrator 110 and network manager unit 140) to a hardware device in the optical network (i.e., various devices such as a router 105 or another device 125; they are collectively labeled as network devices 135);

receiving a response to the query;

analyzing the response to the query; and

transmitting a second query to the hardware device, wherein the second query is based on the response to the first query.

Regarding both claims 1 and 25, Tindal for example discloses that a health manager element 180, which is part of the network manager unit 140 (Figure 3; paragraph [0034]), transmits a query by polling a hardware device 135 about its status. The network manager unit 140 then receives a response from the network device 135 and analyzes the response in order to decide what action to take (paragraph [0042]). Tindal further discloses that the network manager unit 140 (which also includes an action manager 185) may subsequently send commands and additional queries in order to resolve the problem that had been detected by a first/earlier query (paragraphs [0042] and [0055]).

Tindal also discloses that network devices may initiate a message (by posting a message to event bus 175, part of network manager unit 140) and that such a message may be reported to a user through administrator 110 (paragraph [0036]). Tindal further discloses that such a message may be analyzed (by policy manager 170, part of network manager device 140), and this analysis may be also reported to a user through administrator 110 (paragraphs [0038-0039]).

Tindal does not specifically disclose producing a report of a response from a network device between the steps of analyzing and transmitting a second query.

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However, it is well known in the art that a user would desire to obtain as much information as possible about the status and configuration of the network devices in a system such as disclosed by Tindal in order to make the best decisions about possible actions. Nisbet et al. in particular disclose a method related to the one disclosed by Tindal including transmitting and receiving queries to and from a network device (column 3, line 67; column 4, lines 1-13). Nisbet et al. further teach that the response to the query may be analyzed to fully determine configuration information about the device and that this response and analysis is reported to the user (column 4, lines 7-13). Again, Tindal also already suggests producing responses to queries and corresponding analysis, and Tindal already suggests reporting device-initiated messages.

Regarding both claims 1 and 25, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to produce a report as taught by Nisbet et al. in the method disclosed by Tindal in order to allow a user to be fully aware of the status and configuration of the network devices. The method disclosed by Tindal is already directed to providing a user with a way to interface and send commands to network devices. One in the art would have been particularly motivated to include a step of producing an audit report such as taught by Nisbet et al. so that the additional information about the overall system can further help a user decide how to act accordingly.

Regarding claim 13, Tindal discloses a system for auditing an optical network (Figures 2 and 3), comprising:

two or more computer systems (i.e., administrator 110 shown as a computer in Figure 2 and computer storage element 145, for example, or even the various network devices 135, which would be well understood in the art as generally being or including “computer systems” having processing means and/or software; paragraphs [0011] and [0012]);

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an optical network coupled to the computer systems, the network communicatively coupled with the computer systems, the optical network comprising an optical medium and optical devices for providing a communication between the computer systems (Figure 8 shows optical devices such as servers for optical communication, for example); and,

a device (network manager unit 140) coupled to the optical network and capable of transmitting queries in the optical network to the optical devices,

wherein first and second queries are transmitted to at least one of the optical devices and wherein the second query is based on the response to the first query.

Tindal for example discloses that a health manager element 180, which is part of the network manager unit 140 (Figure 3; paragraph [0034]), transmits a query by polling an optical device about its status. The network manger unit 140 then receives a response from the optical device and analyzes the response in order to decide what action to take (paragraph [0042]). Tindal further discloses that the network manger unit 140 (which also includes an action manger 185) may subsequently send commands and additional queries in order to resolve the problem that had been detected by a first/earlier query (paragraphs [0042] and [0055]).

Tindal also discloses that network devices may initiate a message (by posting a message to event bus 175, part of network manager unit 140) and that such a message may be reported to a user through administrator 110 (paragraph [0036]). Tindal further discloses that such a message may be analyzed (by policy manager 170, part of network manager device 140), and this analysis may be also reported to a user through administrator 110 (paragraphs[0038-0039]).

Tindal does not specifically disclose producing a report of a response from a network device prior to the transmission of the second query.

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However, again, it is well known in the art that a user would desire to obtain as much information as possible about the status and configuration of the network devices in a system such as disclosed by Tindal in order to make the best decisions about possible actions. Nisbet et al. in particular disclose a method related to the one disclosed by Tindal including transmitting and receiving queries to and from a network device (column 3, line 67; column 4, lines 1-13). Nisbet et al. further teach that the response to the query may be analyzed to fully determine configuration information about the device and that this response and analysis is reported to the user (column 4, lines 7-13). Again, Tindal also already suggests producing responses to queries and corresponding analysis, and Tindal already suggests reporting device-initiated messages.

Regarding claim 13, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to produce a report as taught by Nisbet et al. in the system disclosed by Tindal in order to allow a user to be fully aware of the status and configuration of the network devices. The method disclosed by Tindal is already directed to providing a user with a way to interface and send commands to network devices. One in the art would have been particularly motivated to include an audit report such as taught by Nisbet et al. so that the additional information about the overall system can further help a user decide how to act accordingly.

Regarding claim 15, Tindal discloses that the system further comprises a device coupled to the optical network capable of receiving responses to the transmitted queries (elements in network manager unit 140 receive communications from the optical devices; paragraph [0042]).

Regarding claims 16 and 17, Tindal discloses that at least one of the computer systems (such as remote storage 145) comprises a data storage device, capable of storing instructions for

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transmitting the queries in the optical network or for receiving responses to the queries in the optical network (paragraphs [0032] and [0033]).

Regarding claim 18, Tindal discloses that at least one of the computer systems is capable of automatically analyzing the responses to the queries. Tindal discloses that network manager unit 140, which would be understood in the art including a computer system with processing means and/or software (paragraph [0033]), is capable of automatically analyzing the responses to the queries (paragraph [0042]).

Regarding claim 20, Tindal discloses a device for auditing an optical network (including administrator 110 and network manager unit 140 shown in Figures 2 and 3), comprising:

a transmitting element coupled to the optical network (such as health manager 180, part of network manager unit 140 and shown in Figure 3, which transmits through event bus 175; paragraph [0042]);

a receiving element coupled to the optical network (such as policy manager 170, part of network manager unit 140 and shown in Figure 3, which can receive messages through event bus 175; paragraph [0038]); and

a computing element coupled to the optical network (including various processing/computing elements in network manager unit 140, and also administrator 110, which is shown explicitly as a computer in Figure 2).

Tindal further discloses that the device for auditing an optical network is capable of formulating and transmitting queries to devices 135 in the optical network and receiving responses to the queries; and discloses that first and second queries are transmitted to at least one of the devices and wherein the second query is based on the response to the first query. Tindal

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for example discloses that a health manager element 180, which is part of the network manager unit 140 (Figure 3; paragraph [0034]), transmits a query by polling a hardware device 135 about its status. The network manager unit 140 then receives a response from the network device 135 and analyzes the response in order to decide what action to take (paragraph [0042]). Tindal further discloses that the network manager unit 140 (which also includes an action manager 185) may subsequently send commands and additional queries in order to resolve the problem that had been detected by a first/earlier query (paragraphs [0042] and [0055]).

Tindal also discloses that network devices may initiate a message (by posting a message to event bus 175, part of network manager unit 140) and that such a message may be reported to a user through administrator 110 (paragraph [0036]). Tindal further discloses that such a message may be analyzed (by policy manager 170, part of network manager device 140), and this analysis may be also reported to a user through administrator 110 (paragraphs[0038-0039]).

Tindal does not specifically disclose producing a report of a response from a network device and the analysis of that response (that is, when a “response” is specifically a response to a query sent to the network device, as recited in the claim, and not simply a message that the device has initiated).

However, again, it is well known in the art that a user would desire to obtain as much information as possible about the status of the network devices in a system such as disclosed by Tindal in order to make the best decisions about possible actions. Nisbet et al. in particular disclose a method related to the one disclosed by Tindal including transmitting and receiving queries to and from a network device (column 3, line 67; column 4, lines 1-13). Nisbet et al. further teach that the response to the query may be analyzed to fully determine configuration

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information about the device and that this response and analysis is reported to the user (column 3, lines 7-13). Again, Tindal also already suggests producing responses to queries and corresponding analysis, and Tindal already suggests reporting device-initiated messages.

Regarding claim 20, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to produce a report as taught by Nisbet et al. in the system disclosed by Tindal in order to allow a user to be fully aware of the status and configuration of the network devices. The method disclosed by Tindal is already directed to providing a user with a way to interface and send commands to network devices. One in the art would have been particularly motivated to include an audit report such as taught by Nisbet et al. so that the additional information about the overall system can further help a user decide how to act accordingly.

Regarding claim 21, Tindal discloses that the device is further capable of automatically analyzing the responses to the queries (paragraph [0042]).

Regarding claim 23, Tindal discloses that the device is further capable of making recommendations for appropriate action in the management of the optical network (paragraphs [0036]-[0038]).

Regarding claim 36, as similarly discussed above with regard to claim 1, Tindal discloses a system for auditing an optical network (Figures 2 and 3), comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a query to a hardware device in the optical network (various parts of network manager unit 140, such as health manager 180 or action manger 185 shown in Figure 3, transmit through event bus 175; paragraph [0042]);

receiving means for receiving a response to the query; and

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analyzing means for analyzing the response to the query (various elements in network manager unit 140 also receive and analyze responses to queries).

Tindal further discloses that the transmitting means transmits a second query to the hardware device, the second query being based on the response to the first query, in order to gather status information of the hardware device.

Again, Tindal for example discloses that a health manager element 180, which is part of the network manager unit 140 (Figure 3; paragraph [0034]), transmits a query by polling a hardware device 135 about its status. The network manger unit 140 then receives a response from the network device 135 and analyzes the response in order to decide what action to take (paragraph [0042]). Tindal further discloses that the network manger unit 140 (which also includes an action manger 185) may subsequently send commands and additional queries in order to resolve the problem that had been detected by a first/earlier query (paragraphs [0042] and [0055]).

Tindal also discloses that network devices may initiate a message (by posting a message to event bus 175, part of network manager unit 140) and that such a message may be reported to a user through administrator 110 (paragraph [0036]).

Again, Tindal does not specifically disclose a report producing means for producing a report of a response from a network device.

However, it is well known in the art that a user would desire to obtain as much information as possible about the status of the network devices in a system such as disclosed by Tindal in order to make the best decisions about possible actions. Nisbet et al. in particular disclose a system related to the one disclosed by Tindal including means for transmitting and

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receiving queries to and from a network device (column 3, line 67; column 4, lines 1-13). Nisbet et al. further teach means for reporting the responses to the queries (column 3, lines 7-13). Again, Tindal also already suggests producing responses to queries and corresponding analysis, and Tindal already suggests reporting device-initiated messages.

Regarding claim 36, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to including a means for producing a report as taught by Nisbet et al. in the system disclosed by Tindal in order to allow a user to be fully aware of the status and configuration of the network devices. The system disclosed by Tindal is already directed to providing a user with a way to interface and send commands to network devices. One in the art would have been particularly motivated to include a means for reporting device responses such as taught by Nisbet et al. so that the additional information about the overall system can further help a user decide how to act accordingly.

Regarding claims 3, 26, and 37, Tindal already discloses that the system reports recommendations associated with the management of the network after processing messages that may be sent from network devices (paragraphs [0036]-[0038]). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include similar recommendations in the report produced in the system described by Tindal in view of Nisbet et al. in order to provide further information and guidance to the user.

Regarding claims 4, 14, 24, 27, and 38, Tindal discloses that at least a portion of the network is implemented as a DWDM optical network (Figure 8 shows DWDM switches 330, for example).

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Regarding claims 5, 28 and 39, Tindal discloses that the hardware device (i.e., one of devices 135 such as router 105 or optical device 125) is a portion of the network's infrastructure.

Regarding claims 6, 29, and 40, Tindal discloses that the hardware device may be a DWDM device (such as a DWDM switch 330 shown in Figure 8).

Regarding claims 7, 30, and 41, Tindal discloses that the step of transmitting the transmitted queries is accomplished entirely within the optical network.

Regarding claims 8 and 31. The method described in Claim 1, wherein the transmitted queries may be generated by a dedicated network audit device (such as health manager element 180 within network manger unit 140).

Regarding claims 9, 32 and 42, Tindal discloses that the receiving of the received responses is accomplished entirely within the network.

Regarding claims 10, 33, and 43, Tindal discloses that the first query may request information related to the part number and location in the optical network of the hardware device (paragraph [0042]).

Regarding claims 11, 34, and 44, Tindal discloses that the second query may be determined by database reference to the hardware type of the hardware device (paragraph [0054]).

Regarding claims 12 and 35, Tindal discloses that a further step of analyzing the responses to the queries may be performed by automated intelligent decision-making (using the policy manager 170 and the action manager 185, for example; paragraphs [0038] and [0042]).

Regarding claim 19, Tindal discloses a system as discussed above with regard to claim 13. As similarly discussed above with regard to claim 1, Tindal does not specifically disclose

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that the system further comprises a device for presenting the responses and the analysis in a user readable format. However, again, Nisbet et al. in particular disclose a system related to the one disclosed by Tindal including transmitting and receiving queries to and from a network device (column 3, line 67; column 4, lines 1-13). Nisbet et al. further teach that the response to the query may be analyzed to fully determine status and configuration information about the device and that this response and analysis is reported to the user in a user-readable format (column 4, lines 7-13).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to produce a user-readable report as taught by Nisbet et al. in the system disclosed by Tindal in order to allow a user to be fully aware of the status and configuration of the network devices. One in the art would have been particularly motivated to include a device for presenting device responses such as taught by Nisbet et al. so that the additional information about the overall system can further help a user decide how to act accordingly.

Regarding claim 22, Tindal discloses a system as discussed above with regard to claims 20 and 21. As similarly discussed above with regard to claim 1, Tindal does not specifically disclose that the device for presents results of automatic analysis in a user readable format. However, again, Nisbet et al. in particular disclose a device related to the one disclosed by Tindal including transmitting and receiving queries to and from a network device (column 3, line 67; column 4, lines 1-13). Nisbet et al. further teach that the response to the query may be analyzed to fully determine status and configuration information about the device and that this response and analysis is reported to the user (column 3, lines 7-13).

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It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to produce a report as taught by Nisbet et al. in the system disclosed by Tindal in order to allow a user to be fully aware of the status and configuration of the network devices. One in the art would have been particularly motivated to include a device for presenting analysis such as taught by Nisbet et al. so that the additional information about the overall system can further help a user decide how to act accordingly.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 21 February 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. In response to Applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which Applicant relies (i.e., an audit report which "is made in response to a first query and is used as a basis for a second query" as asserted on page 4 of Applicant's response) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Examiner respectfully notes that independent claims 1, 13, 20 25, and 36 each recite an audit report of the response (to the first query) that is based on network configuration information is produced "prior to" (or "subsequent to") the transmission of a second query. However, the claims do not recite that a second query is based on the audit report. Instead, the claims only recite that the second query is "based on said response to said first query" (to quote claim 1 specifically; the other independent claims are similar). Examiner respectfully notes that the claims recite producing an audit report based on the response of the first query but do not

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recite any further connection between the report and the second query. In the method or system recited in the claims, the second query is not necessarily dependent or based on the audit report.

Examiner respectfully submits that Nisbet et al. generally teach producing an audit report of a response to a query (column 4, lines 1-13). Briefly, the combination of Tindal in view of Nisbet et al. suggests a system with a first query and response and a second query based on the response (as disclosed by Tindal) and an audit report which is generally produced to document the response (as taught by Nisbet et al.). Nisbet et al. provide the general teaching of producing reports to inform users about the status of the network. In other words, Tindal already discloses a second query based on the response of the first query, and Nisbet et al. simply teaches advantageously outputting the response in the form of an audit report. Again, the claims do not specifically recite that the audit report is used for creating the second query. The claims also do not further recite details regarding a methodology for creating the audit report.

Examiner also respectfully submits, however, that since Tindal already discloses that the response to the first query is used as a basis for a second query, the combination of Tindal in view of Nisbet et al. also suggests that the second query would be also “based on” the audit report of the response taught by Nisbet et al., since the audit report would necessarily include a representation of the response.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christina Y. Leung whose telephone number is 571-272-3023. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on 571-272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


CHRISTINA LEUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER